

EDUCATION AND ART.

514. Under the British North America Act, 1867, the right to legislate on matters respecting education was placed in the hands of the Governments of the several Provinces, the rights and privileges of denominational and Separate schools, then existing, being specially protected. Education.

515. As a consequence of the above there is a considerable difference in many details in the Public School systems in force in the various Provinces, though they are all based on the principle of free education, the funds being supplied by local taxation and Government grants. Ontario lays claim to having the most perfect system; but be that as it may, the arrangements in each Province are admirable, and it is doubtful if any country other than Canada can boast of the same extended educational facilities. Difference in the several provincial systems.

516. In Ontario the school system is under the control of the Minister of Education, who is a member of the Provincial Government for the time being. In the other Provinces there are Superintendents and Boards of Education, who report to the respective Provincial Secretaries. In Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, British Columbia and Prince Edward Island, the schools are purely undenominational. In British Columbia, "the highest morality is to be inculcated, but no religious creed or dogma taught." In the other three Provinces religious exercises are permitted, but no children can be compelled to be present against the wishes of their parents. In Quebec and Manitoba the schools are Protestant and Roman Catholic. Education is based on religious teaching, and the Roman Catholic catechism and, in Protestant schools, the Bible, are text books. In Ontario the schools are undenominational, but Protestants and Roman Catholics are allowed Separate schools within certain limitations. Every Public and High school, however, is opened and Denominational and undenominational systems.